

Development of a Five-Year Pastoral Plan

*Based on Parish Listening Sessions and
Gallup ME 25 Member Engagement Survey Results*



Background:



Father Jerry Ringenback
St. Bernard's pastor

•WHAT?

...challenges over the next five years

•WHEN?

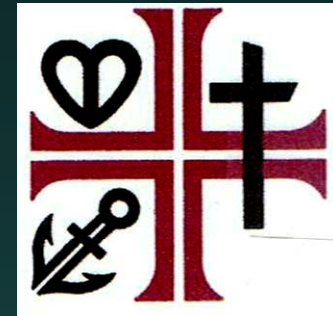
...2008-2009 pastoral year

•HOW?

...parish Listening Sessions...weekly bulletin columns

Process:

- Gallup ME 25 survey in October of 2008.
- Results given to parishioners following all Masses January 14-15, 2009
- Fourteen-person Visioning Team appointed by Father Jerry
- Director of Adult Faith Formation facilitated Team.
- Reviewed the input from parishioners collected at:
 - the Listening Sessions
 - the Gallup Member Engagement Survey.
- “homework” was assigned in between four scheduled monthly meetings (including one full-day meeting) .





St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Priority:

- The need to *engage more parishioners in service to the parish and community*
- The need to *reach out and engage parishioners who are not engaged or minimally engaged in the life and mission of the parish.*
- The need to *support those parishioners who are already engaged in the life, ministries and mission of the parish.*



Goal #1:

To provide opportunities for all parishioners to discover and live their strengths.

- Promoting the use of the Clifton StrengthsFinder *(after 2 months: 100 books sold/given; 70 people took SF, 30 in Groups)*
- Holding parish ministry fairs *(next year)*
- Clarify and focus parish ministries on the overall mission of the parish. *(in process)*



Goal #2:

To motivate and equip engaged parishioners to reach out and invite others to become engaged.

- Forming a new Welcoming Ministry to initiate personal contact with new and/or minimally-connected parishioners *(Ministry formed; currently phoning 105 newly registered families with personal invite to Blessing of New Parishioners and parish Thanksgiving Dinner on Christ the King.)*
- Use the Paulist's *Awakening Faith* to reach out to inactive Catholics and reconnect them with the Church. *(next year)*



Goal #3:

To increase support and recognition of engaged parishioners.

- Instituting a “Saints in the Making” initiative, by which engaged parishioners will be publicly recognized for their contributions to the mission of the parish, and for the way their ministries have touched others.
- Providing ongoing leadership support and training for those engaged in ministry.

(Goal 3 team slow in starting; planning still under way!)



The results presented to the parish on Pentecost Sunday with the name:



Gifted, Engaged and Growing!

- A Pastoral Plan Coordinating Committee was formed.
- Co-chairs were appointed and teams gathered as needed for each of the three goals.
- Each group formulated SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound) objectives for the first phase of the plan in the pastoral year 2009-10.